From: Alan Meyer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 9:12pm
Subject: Software for schools

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing to ask you to prevent Microsoft from giving away software to our nations' schools.

Giving away computer products to schools is a long standing technique for increasing market share. The children learn to use the products in school, then come home and ask their parents to buy the same products for use at home. The product they used in school is the only one they know and are comfortable with.

If Microsoft wishes to give cash to schools, or to donate computers (which they don't sell themselves) to schools, that will not strengthen their monopoly position in software. However if they give away Microsoft software to schools (which doesn't really cost them anything) it will strengthen their position and is very akin to "dumping", and other techniques that harm competition.

Also, it is my understanding that Microsoft will only license the software to the schools for a limited time. I have read that, in the Microsoft proposal, after five years the schools must start paying fees.

It seems to me that this proposal by Microsoft shows that Microsoft still doesn't understand that building a monopoly is illegal, harmful to the people of our country, and morally wrong.

I ask you not to permit this proposal of Microsoft's to go forward.

Thank you.
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